



## **Board of Health Agenda**

Date: December 18, 2024

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

1. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from October 23, 2024
2. DISCUSSION:  
Schedule for 2025
3. UPDATES:  
Department Updates
4. UPDATES:  
Nursing Updates
5. UPDATES:  
Environmental Updates
6. UPDATES:  
Restaurant Updates

Adjourn



## Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

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### Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from October 23, 2024

#### ATTACHMENTS:

	Type	File Name	Description
▢	Reference Material	10232024_Minutes_Board_of_Health_draft_LM.pdf	BOH Meeting Minutes 10232024



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**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING AGENDA**

Date: Wednesday, October 23, 2024  
Time: 4:00pm  
Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

In accordance with the Governor's [Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20](#), the June 23, 2024 public meeting of the Arlington Board of Health shall be physically closed to the public. The meeting shall instead be held virtually using Zoom.

**Zoom Login instructions:**

Instructions and the meeting link for this specific meeting can be found on the [Board's agenda and minutes page](#) or on the [Town's meeting calendar](#). The meeting registration information is listed below. When attendees enter the meeting, they will be placed into a virtual waiting room. Attendees will be admitted into the meeting from the waiting room at the start of the meeting.

Please register in advance for this meeting: <https://town-arlington-maus.zoom.us/join/9876543210>

**On this agenda:**

Colleen Leger, Health and Human Services Director for the Town of Arlington made the following opening statement. Consistent with the Governor's orders suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, this Town of Arlington Board of Health meeting is being held virtually via Zoom for audio and video participation of Board Members and the public. When you entered this meeting, you were automatically muted. During this meeting you will be unmuted individually as needed. These controls are in place to ensure that today's meeting is safe and effective. At this time, I would like to confirm that all members and persons anticipated on today's agenda are present and can hear me.

Board Members, when I call your name and unmute you, please respond in the affirmative.

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye Present
2. Laura White, Aye Present
3. Peter Rice, Aye Present

Health Department staff, please respond in the affirmative when I call your name and unmute you.

1. Lindsey Sharp, Present
2. Charlotte Breef-Pilz, Present
3. Laura Munsey, Present Aye
4. Jessica Kerr, Present

Applicants and Representatives, do we have anyone on the call representing an application?

1. Janella Mele – Ink Jam Arlington

Thank you everyone.

As stated, this Open Meeting of the Arlington Board of Health is being conducted remotely consistent with the supplemental budget bill signed by Governor Healey on March 29, 2023.

The Order allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will have several public comment periods, one during each of the hearings and one at the end of the meeting. If you would like to comment during one of the public comment periods, please use the "Raise Hand" function if on a computer, or "Dial \*9" if on the phone. When your name or phone number is called, and you are unmuted, please state your name and provide your comment. All attendees will be afforded 3 minutes for any comments.

For this meeting, the Board of Health is convening by telephone and computer conference via Zoom as posted on the Town's Website identifying how the public may join.

Only Health Department staff will be able to share their screen during this meeting. Board Members and Department Staff may be participating by video conference. Accordingly, please be aware that other folks may be able to see you. Anything that you broadcast may be captured by the recording.

All of the materials for this meeting are available on the Novus Agenda dashboard, and I recommend that Board Members and the public follow the agenda as posted on Novus unless otherwise noted. Members of the public are encouraged to provide written public comments.

Before we get to today's agenda, I am going to cover some ground rules for effective and clear conduct of our business and to ensure accurate meeting minutes.

Marie Walsh Condon, the Board Chair, will introduce each agenda item. After the item is presented, she will go down the list of Board Members, inviting each by name to provide any comment, questions, or motions. Please hold comments or questions until your name is called and you are unmuted.

For any response, please wait until the Chair yields the floor to you, and state your name before speaking.

Finally, each vote taken during this meeting will be conducted by roll-call vote.

Dr. Marie Walsh Condon welcomed all to today's Board of Health meeting and reviewed today's agenda.

### ***Agenda Items***

1. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from June 26, 2024

Section 6 updates, end of third line spy pond and reservoir “not reservation”

Motion made by Laura White to approve the minutes with corrections.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Peter Rice.

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
2. Laura White, Aye
3. Peter Rice, Aye

Vote: 3-0 (unanimous) in favor of the motion.

2. HEARING: Application for Body Art Permit

Inspector Breef-Pilz presented the application for Body Art Practitioner. Janella Mele was an apprentice in Arlington for two years, and is now applying for full practitioner license without any variance. All necessary documents were included, and the department supports the application.

Jenella shared she has been practicing apprentice for a little over two years at Ink Jam Tattoo in Arlington and progressing at an exciting rate and worked through a multitude of styles, including fine line, and different body locations, rib cages, and would like to pursue free handing. Mele also has an art studio in Somerville, and is hoping to pursue a degree in animation in the next few years.

Dr. Laura White no questions or comments

Dr. Peter Rice, enjoyed the pictures of work. Dr. Rice asked for clarification of the procedure record keeping over the past two years.

Motion made by Laura White to approve the application as written.  
2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Peter Rice.

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
2. Laura White, Aye
3. Peter Rice, Aye

Vote: 3-0 (unanimous) in favor of the motion.

3. DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Director Leger stated significant changes over the last several months, and staff has done an outstanding job of conducting all the business conducted.

Director Waden has accepted a position as Director of Recreation. Job has been posted, and closes next week. Leger hopes that the interview process will take place within the next few weeks.

Pat Martin's position has been posted, and will continue for 2 more weeks. The position has been renamed as the Assistant Director of Public Health, we will move forward as quickly and thoughtfully as possible.

Dr. Marie Walsh Condon asked to be kept updated, even if before the next Board Meeting.

Dr. Laura White – No questions, but appreciates all the work.

#### 4. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE UPDATES

Nurse Kerr shared updates on the Community Health Needs Assessment process. The findings were presented to the advisory committees. There are 4 Priority areas: Mental and Behavioral Health, Awareness of Social and Economic Services in the Community, Affordable Housing and Cost of Living, and Active Transportation and Safety and Accessibility.

Planning will consist of four sessions, anyone who did key informant interviews. The sessions will consist of a synchronous training over Zoom, a recorded video to watch on their own, and two half day sessions held in person. We are in the home stretch of this program. We have the improvement plan an update will be provided to the Board.

Nurse Kerr also provided nursing updates. The flu clinics have just finished. Clinics were held in all Arlington Housing Authority Senior Buildings, a clinic was held for seniors at the Senior Center, and for employees. Kerr wanted to thank the volunteers and highlight how important the clinics are to the seniors and the community.

Nurse Kerr provided an update on Pertussis in Arlington. Arlington is one of the communities that has seen an uptick in cases this year. There have been 22 cases this year, and four cases associated with Arlington since July. Prior to this year, the last positive case was one case in 2020. Cases are predominantly in children ages 15-19, however, some in younger children. In high school ages, we worked with school nursing department to put out an Arlington Public Schools community wide Advisory on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

More students were tested following the community wide advisory. There are no further recommendations to follow from the Department of Public Health; Nurse Kerr has been in communication with their staff.

Dr. Marie Walsh Condon thanked Jessica for all her work in these important areas.

Dr. Laura White curious is this linked with other communities as well. Kerr shared that we are seeing it in other communities, such as Brookline, and Belmont. Not many of the cases are really ill and do not following typical signs. There has not been the typically whooping cough and parents assumed it was a cold. Most cases are not severe, but close contacts need to be aware of the symptoms, and have proper treatment prophylactically if they are at an increased risk.

Dr. Rice asked, if these cases had items in common, such as missing vaccinations, etc. In Kerr's role she has access to MAVEN, Massachusetts Virtual Epidemiological Network and the Massachusetts Immunization Information System, where she can look up records, and

reaches out to practitioner before adding more details to the patients profile. It then gets sent back to DPH, where they are able to do more analytical investigations. In these current cases, the majority are up to date on vaccinations.

## 5. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UPDATES

Inspector Breef-Pilz shared updates from the summer in Arlington. There are three bathing beaches at two locations that are permitted, there was one beach closing this summer at Medford Boat Club's lower beach.

Mosquitos tested positive for West Nile Virus, WNV. Notices were sent throughout the community, as Arlington moved into the high risk category based on the mosquito test results. There were no human cases in Arlington. The risk for Eastern equine encephalitis, EEE, remained low.

One algae bloom notification at Menotomy Rocks Park based on test results from the Arlington Water Bodies Working group. Signage and town notification went out in late September.

The Health Department was notified of non-licensed body art practitioner, working out of their home, and we sent out a cease and desist notification. We were contacted by the individual practicing and informed them of the regulations and they are no longer offering services.

Water Department will be sending out notices to residents this week to residences that may have lead pipes connecting their home to the main water pipe. The letters include instructions on how to find out the material of their pipes as well as an interactive map displaying the locations in town where more information is needed. We anticipate an increase in calls from these letters. We cannot provide water testing, and these calls will be directed back to the water department regarding this.

A Tobacco Establishment in town has closed, Symmes Market on Mass Ave. There are 19 currently permits available with 18 operating. There was talk of another market moving into that space, but no applications have been submitted at this time.

Annual Renewal permits, for food, tobacco, body art, body work, rdna, waste haulers, etc. The entire department is working hard on this to have these permits start January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dr. Walsh-Condon thanked everyone for all the hard work while being short staffed. Dr. White and Dr. Rice also thanked the staff.

Lindsey Sharp provided a Regional Update. There was a large uptick in hoarding cases, many of these are still open and in process. The other 3 towns have also seen a similar uptick, and have been discussing how can we stream line, create SOP's etc. and share resources to address this effort regionally.

The Regional staff are looking for further grants to apply for use to expand services that benefit all the communities.

The shared staff continue to find areas that can be regionalized between these four departments. Having the shared staff for collaboration is such a great resource, especially when departments need more support at various times.

Dr. Laura White – Thank you  
Dr. Peter Rice – Thank you

## 6. RESTAURANT UPDATES

Inspector Breef-Pilz shared that three establishments have opened since the last Board meeting in June. These include Vintage Tea & Cake Company, Fiesta Bites Pizzeria in Arlington Heights and Brightview Senior Living had a change of ownership. There are approximately five establishments with open plan reviews.

Mojin has been conducting inspections and re-inspections for the department in order to assist with the workload.

The Department was notified about BT's Bar-B-Que cooking without a permit. A cease and desist letter was sent to the location in Arlington where they were smoking meats at their residence. We have not heard of any other violations from this company. There was no response to the letter.

Dr Laura White – Thank you for update  
Dr. Peter Rice – Thank you

Next Meeting is in December 11<sup>th</sup>, we will plan to keep as of now and keep information if anything needs to be acted upon.

Dr. Laura White raised a scheduled conflict. 4:00 pm would be a better time for the meetings.

Motion to Adjourn made by Dr. Peter Rice.  
Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dr. Laura White

1. Marie Walsh Condon, Aye
2. Laura White, Aye
3. Peter Rice, Aye

Vote: 3-0 (unanimous) in favor of the motion

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 pm.





## Town of Arlington, Massachusetts

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### Schedule for 2025

#### ATTACHMENTS:

	Type	File Name	Description
📎	Reference Material	2025_BOH_Meeting_Schedule.pdf	Proposed Schedule 2025



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## Proposed 2025 Board of Health Meeting Schedule:

- January 22, 2025
- February 19, 2025
- March 19, 2025
- April 16, 2025
- May 14, 2025
- June 11, 2025
- September 10, 2025
- October 8, 2025
- November 12, 2025
- December 10, 2025

Time: 3:00 PM

Location: TBD